



IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

August 21, 2008

For immediate release

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2007 IOWA DRINKING WATER REPORT AVAILABLE

MEDIA CONTACT: Dennis Alt at (515) 725-0275.

DES MOINES — More than 2.5 million Iowans served by public water supplies received safe drinking water in 2007, according to an annual DNR compliance report presented to the Iowa Environmental Protection Commission on Aug. 19.

Iowans can view the report by going online to the “Iowa Public Drinking Water Program 2007 Annual Compliance Report” at www.iowadnr.gov/water/drinking/reports.html. Any public water supply that had a violation of a health-based standard or of a major monitoring or reporting requirement is listed in the report.

“As people look at the report, they should understand that exceeding the maximum allowed level of contamination just one time for one contaminant causes a public water supply to be out of compliance,” said Dennis Alt, supervisor of the DNR’s water supply engineering section.

Alt said the results for 2007 were similar to recent years, despite new federal regulations that created more requirements for water system operators and state oversight staff.

One area that saw significant improvement was compliance with a newer rule that requires systems to measure byproducts of the disinfection process. These byproducts have the potential to affect public health. While not all systems were in compliance, many systems that had previously been in violation worked to fix their problems and came into compliance this year.

The contaminants found in Iowa which can cause an immediate health risk are coliform bacteria from a fecal source, nitrate and nitrite. These contaminants may pose a risk to women who are pregnant, elderly, children or people who have a weakened immune system.

“Overall, the public water supplies in Iowa are serving safe water,” said Alt. “However, we continue to have room for improvement.”

The DNR monitors sampling and reporting of public water systems.

“The drinking water industry is very complicated with many requirements,” said Alt. “Iowa is fortunate to have dedicated, qualified water treatment and water distribution system operators, and state drinking water staff. And I'm sure we can work together to improve the compliance rate.”

The federal Safe Drinking Water Act requires the State of Iowa to publish an annual report of the status of its drinking water program. The report has been distributed to the DNR's Environmental Protection Commission, the Governor's Office, the Iowa Legislature and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Writer: Cassy Lalan

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Highlights from the 2007 Reports

The 2007 Public Drinking Water Report found the following:

- There were no reported waterborne disease outbreaks or deaths from Iowa public drinking water supplies.
- All health-based standards were met by 90 percent of Iowa's 2,000 regulated public water supplies.
- More than 2.5 million people served by Iowa's public water systems received water that was in compliance with all health-based standards.
- The 403 health-based standard violations at 190 public water supplies were of these contaminants (followed by the percent contributed by each contaminant to the total number of violations): non-fecal coliform bacteria (53 percent), nitrate (16 percent), fecal coliform bacteria (7 percent), naturally occurring radium (4 percent), copper (4 percent), total trihalomethanes (4 percent), arsenic (3 percent), lead (3 percent), and other contaminants.
- Major monitoring and reporting requirements were met by 80 percent of Iowa's public water supply systems. Of the 1,034 violations, monitoring violations for coliform bacteria, nitrate, disinfection byproducts, inorganic compounds, chlorine and reporting violations were the most prevalent.
- The requirement for each of the 1,148 community public water supply systems to compile and distribute an annual consumer confidence report to their customers was met by 97 percent of the systems.

People and cities can check the status of their drinking water at www.iowadnr.gov/water/drinking/reports.html.

Writer: Cassy Lalan

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IOWA SCRAP TIRES USED TO MAKE SCHOOL PLAYGROUNDS SAFER

MEDIA CONTACT: Tom Anderson at (515) 281-8623 or tom.anderson@dnr.iowa.gov

DES MOINES – Students and staff at several Iowa schools will begin the new academic year with a safer playground thanks to a partnership between the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the Iowa Association of School Boards (IASB).

The playgrounds are surfaced with recycled rubber tiles manufactured using 1.5 million pounds of crumb rubber derived from Iowa scrap tires. Because of its compression capabilities, the new playground surface greatly reduces injuries due to falls from play equipment and significantly improves handicapped accessibility. The recycled rubber tiles replace common playground surfacing materials like wood chips and pea gravel while decreasing maintenance costs.

IASB contracted with Welch Products, Inc., a subsidiary of GreenMan Technologies, Inc. to supply the rubber tiles, oversee concrete pad construction and install playground surfacing tiles at 22 Iowa Schools across the state. The DNR provided matching grants in the form of rubber tiles to selected schools.

Schools selected for grant assistance are required to host an educational program or ceremony highlighting the benefits of recycling in general and specifically the recycling of Iowa scrap tires.

“The Department believes this type of hands-on demonstration for school children and adults can show the benefits of recycling. The crumb rubber used in manufacturing these safety tiles may have originated from a scrap tire that came off of the family car,” said Tom Anderson, environmental specialist, senior with the DNR. “This closed loop recycling project hopes to increase Iowans’ awareness that what they recycle can be made into beneficial new products while at the same time reducing negative environmental impacts of products manufactured from virgin materials.”

The playgrounds surfaced with the recycled rubber tiles will meet requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act and Consumer Product Safety Commission certification guidelines once installed.

Despite the weather, the project remains on track with completion of all school playground projects anticipated by early September 2008.

See below for a list of schools awarded grants. For more information, please visit the Welch Products website at www.welchproducts.com/NSSI or contact Tim Mahoney at 847-917-3958. For IASB, contact Lindsey Edgerton at ledgerton@ia-sb.org or 1-800-795-4272.

School District

Pekin Community School District
Solon Community School District
Glidden-Ralston Community School District
College Community Schools
Mid-Prairie Kalona Elementary School
Prairie Valley Community School District
Baxter Elementary School
Gilmore City-Bradgate Community School District
Aurelia Community School District
Central Community School District
Harris-Lake Park Elementary
Roland Story Community School District
West Hancock Community School District
Durant Community School District
Bondurant-Farrar Community School District
Community United Child Care Centers, Inc.
North Polk Community School District
Webster City Community School District
Cherokee Community School District
Des Moines Public Schools
Urbandale Community School District

Project Location

Pekin Elementary
Lakeview Elementary
Glidden-Ralston Elementary
Prairie View Elementary
Mid-Prairie Kalona Elementary
Prairie Valley Elementary
Baxter Elementary
Gilmore City-Bradgate Elementary
Aurelia Elementary
Central Elementary Kindergarten Building
Harris-Lake Park Elementary
Roland Story Elementary
West Hancock Elementary
Durant Elementary
Anderson Elementary
Westridge/Thode-Rouse Child Development Center
West Elementary
Sunset Heights Elementary
The Early Childhood Learning Center
Hills Elementary
Karen Acres Elementary

City

Packwood
Solon
Glidden
Cedar Rapids
Kalona
Callendar
Baxter
Gilmore City
Aurelia
Elkader
Lake Park
Story City
Britt
Durant
Bondurant
Waterloo
Polk City
Webster City
Cherokee
Des Moines
Urbandale

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